

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Previously Presented) A spread illuminating apparatus for illuminating two objects, the apparatus comprising:

at least one light source;

a light conductive plate having the at least one light source provided at one end surface thereof and adapted to allow light emitted from the at least one light source and introduced therein to exit out therefrom through two major surfaces thereof respectively toward a first liquid crystal display element which constitutes one of two objects to be illuminated, and which is disposed over one of the two major surfaces of the light conductive plate, and toward a second liquid crystal display element which constitutes the other of the two objects to be illuminated, has a smaller display screen size than the first liquid crystal display element, and which is partially disposed over the other of the two major surfaces of the light conductive plate, the second liquid crystal display element covering one area, but not covering another area, of the other of the two major surfaces of the light conductive plate; and

a reflector plate, reflecting light toward the first liquid crystal display element, partially disposed at the other major surface of the light conductive plate having the second liquid crystal display element, the reflector plate covering an area of the other of the two major surfaces that is not covered by the second liquid crystal display element, the reflector plate not covering an area of the other of the two major surfaces that is covered by the second liquid crystal display element,

wherein the reflector plate has a reflectance that matches with a reflectance of the second liquid crystal display element.

2-4. (Canceled)

5. (Previously Presented) A spread illuminating apparatus for illuminating two objects, the apparatus comprising:

at least one light source;

a light conductive plate having the at least one light source provided at one end surface thereof and adapted to allow light emitted from the at least one light source and introduced therein to exit out therefrom through two major surfaces thereof respectively toward a first liquid crystal display element which constitutes one of two objects to be illuminated, and which is disposed over one of the two major surfaces of the light conductive plate, and toward a second liquid crystal display element which constitutes the other of the two objects to be illuminated, has a smaller display screen size than the first liquid crystal display element, and which is partially disposed over the other of the two major surfaces of the light conductive plate, the second liquid crystal display element covering one area, but not covering another area, of the other of the two major surfaces of the light conductive plate; and

a reflector plate partially provided so as to cover an area of the other of the two major surfaces that is not covered by the second liquid crystal display element, the reflector plate not covering an area of the other of the two major surfaces that is covered by the second liquid crystal display element; and

a reflective polarizer plate which reflects P-polarized light and transmits S-polarized light selectively, or vice versa, and which is provided so as to cover entirely the other major surface of the light conductive plate having the second liquid crystal display element,

wherein the reflector plate has a reflectance that matches with a reflectance of the second liquid crystal display element.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) A spread illuminating apparatus according to Claim 1 wherein the reflector plate has an area partially formed thereon so that the reflectance of the reflector plate gradually decreases according to a distance from the second liquid crystal display element.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Previously Presented) A spread illuminating apparatus for illuminating two objects, the apparatus comprising:

at least one light source;

a light conductive plate having the at least one light source provided at one end surface thereof and adapted to allow light emitted from the at least one light source and introduced therein to exit out therefrom through two major surfaces thereof respectively toward a first liquid crystal display element which constitutes one of two objects to be illuminated, and which is disposed over one of the two major surfaces of the light conductive plate, and toward a second liquid crystal display element which constitutes the other of the two objects to be illuminated, has a smaller display screen size than the first liquid crystal display element, and which is partially disposed over the other of the two major surfaces of the light conductive plate, the second liquid crystal display element covering one area, but not covering another area, of the other of the two major surfaces of the light conductive plate; and

a reflector plate partially provided so as to cover an area of the other of the two major surfaces that is not covered by the second liquid crystal display element, the reflector plate not covering an area of the other of the two major surfaces that is covered by the second liquid crystal display element, and

a reflective polarizer plate which reflects P-polarized light and transmits S-polarized light selectively, or vice versa, and which is provided entirely at and in direct

contact with the other major surface of the light conductive plate having the second liquid crystal display element,

wherein the reflector plate has a reflectance that matches with a reflectance of the second liquid crystal display element.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Previously Presented) A spread illuminating apparatus according to Claim 5 wherein the reflector plate has an area partially formed thereon so that the reflectance of the reflector plate gradually decreases according to a distance from the second liquid crystal display element.

12. (Previously Presented) A spread illuminating apparatus according to Claim 1 wherein the reflector plate has its reflectance gradually varying at a given area close to the second liquid crystal display element.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Previously Presented) A spread illuminating apparatus according to Claim 9 wherein the reflector plate has an area partially formed thereon so that the reflectance of the reflector plate gradually decreases according to a distance from the second liquid crystal display element.

15. (New) A spread illuminating apparatus for illuminating two objects, the apparatus comprising:

at least one light source;

a light conductive plate having the at least one light source provided at one end surface thereof and adapted to allow light emitted from the at least one light source and introduced therein to exit out therefrom through two major surfaces thereof respectively toward a first liquid crystal display element which constitutes one of two objects to be illuminated, and which is disposed over one of the two major surfaces of the light conductive

plate, and toward a second liquid crystal display element which constitutes the other of the two objects to be illuminated, has a smaller display screen size than the first liquid crystal display element, and which is partially disposed over the other of the two major surfaces of the light conductive plate, the second liquid crystal display element covering one area, but not covering another area, of the other of the two major surfaces of the light conductive plate; and

a reflector plate, reflecting light toward the first liquid crystal display element, partially disposed at the other major surface of the light conductive plate having the second liquid crystal display element, the reflector plate covering an area of the other of the two major surfaces that is not covered by the second liquid crystal display element, the reflector plate not covering an area of the other of the two major surfaces that is covered by the second liquid crystal display element,

wherein the reflector plate has an area facing the light conductive plate and only partially formed at an end area close to a boundary formed between the second liquid crystal display element and the reflector plate, so that the reflectance of the reflector plate gradually decreases according to a distance from the second liquid crystal display element in the area, and

wherein the area partially formed on the reflector plate is provided without overlapping any parts of the second liquid crystal display element relative to a back surface of the light conductive plate.

16. (New) A spread illuminating apparatus for illuminating two objects, the apparatus comprising:

at least one light source;

a light conductive plate having the at least one light source provided at one end surface thereof and adapted to allow light emitted from the at least one light source and introduced therein to exit out therefrom through two major surfaces thereof respectively

toward a first liquid crystal display element which constitutes one of two objects to be illuminated, and which is disposed over one of the two major surfaces of the light conductive plate, and toward a second liquid crystal display element which constitutes the other of the two objects to be illuminated, has a smaller display screen size than the first liquid crystal display element, and which is partially disposed over the other of the two major surfaces of the light conductive plate, the second liquid crystal display element covering one area, but not covering another area, of the other of the two major surfaces of the light conductive plate; and

a reflector plate partially provided so as to cover an area of the other of the two major surfaces that is not covered by the second liquid crystal display element, the reflector plate not covering an area of the other of the two major surfaces that is covered by the second liquid crystal display element; and

a reflective polarizer plate which reflects P-polarized light and transmits S-polarized light selectively, or vice versa, and which is provided so as to cover entirely the other major surface of the light conductive plate having the second liquid crystal display element,

wherein the reflector plate has an area facing the light conductive plate and only partially formed at an end area close to a boundary formed between the second liquid crystal display element and the reflector plate, so that the reflectance of the reflector plate gradually decreases according to a distance from the second liquid crystal display element in the area, and

wherein the area partially formed on the reflector plate is provided without overlapping any parts of the second liquid crystal display element relative to a back surface of the light conductive plate.

17. (New) A spread illuminating apparatus for illuminating two objects, the apparatus comprising:

at least one light source;

a light conductive plate having the at least one light source provided at one end surface thereof and adapted to allow light emitted from the at least one light source and introduced therein to exit out therefrom through two major surfaces thereof respectively toward a first liquid crystal display element which constitutes one of two objects to be illuminated, and which is disposed over one of the two major surfaces of the light conductive plate, and toward a second liquid crystal display element which constitutes the other of the two objects to be illuminated, has a smaller display screen size than the first liquid crystal display element, and which is partially disposed over the other of the two major surfaces of the light conductive plate, the second liquid crystal display element covering one area, but not covering another area, of the other of the two major surfaces of the light conductive plate; and

a reflector plate partially provided so as to cover an area of the other of the two major surfaces that is not covered by the second liquid crystal display element, the reflector plate not covering an area of the other of the two major surfaces that is covered by the second liquid crystal display element, and

a reflective polarizer plate which reflects P-polarized light and transmits S-polarized light selectively, or vice versa, and which is provided entirely at and in direct contact with the other major surface of the light conductive plate having the second liquid crystal display element,

wherein the reflector plate has an area facing the light conductive plate and only partially formed at an end area close to a boundary formed between the second liquid crystal display element and the reflector plate, so that the reflectance of the reflector plate gradually decreases according to a distance from the second liquid crystal display element in the area, and

wherein the area partially formed on the reflector plate is provided without overlapping any parts of the second liquid crystal display element relative to a back surface of the light conductive plate.